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14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

15 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

16 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

17 Plaintiff,

18 v.

19 ALEKSANDR SURIS and
MAXIM SVERDLOV,

20 Defendants.
21
22
23
24
25

No. 2:17-CR-00420-SJO

GOVERNMENT'S OMNIBUS MOTION IN
LIMINE REGARDING CERTAIN EVIDENCE
AT TRIAL; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS
AND AUTHORITIES

DATE: August 6, 2019
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
COURTROOM: 10C

26 Plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel
27 of record, the Fraud Section of the Department of Justice, hereby
28 submits the following motions in this Omnibus Motion in Limine:

1. Government's Motion in Limine to Exclude Evidence of Legitimate Services Provided by Defendant;
2. Government's Motion in Limine to Preclude Improper Use of Law Enforcement Interview Reports at Trial;
3. Government's Motion in Limine to Exclude Self-Serving Hearsay Statements Offered by Defendants;
4. Government's Motion in Limine to Exclude Argument Nullifying Jury;
5. Government's Motion in Limine to Exclude Evidence Related to Criminal Referral; and
6. Motion in Limine to Exclude Argument and Evidence that Medicare was Negligent.

This Motion is based on the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the files and records of this case, and such further evidence and argument as may be presented at any hearing on the motion.

Dated: July 16, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

The government submits this Omnibus Motion in Limine ("Omnibus Motion") on the following matters: (1) Motion in Limine to Exclude Evidence of Legitimate Services Provided by Defendants; (2) Motion in Limine to Preclude Improper Use of Law Enforcement Interview Reports; (3) Motion in Limine to Exclude Self-Serving Hearsay Statements Offered by Defendants; (4) Motion in Limine to Preclude Defendants from Arguing for Jury Nullification; (5) Motion in Limine to Exclude Evidence Related to Criminal Referral; and (6) Motion in Limine to Exclude Argument and Evidence that Medicare was Negligent.

The government submits the first motion in limine to exclude evidence that defendants provided legitimate services outside of the conduct charged in the First Superseding Indictment ("FSI"). Such evidence is irrelevant to disprove defendants' conduct as to the counts charged, and any hypothetical probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, misleading the jury, and wasting time.

The government submits the second motion in limine to preclude defendants from improperly using law enforcement interview reports as prior inconsistent statements against witnesses who did not write, review, or adopt the interview summaries. Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General ("HHS-OIG"), and Medicare contractors who wrote reports summarizing interviews of individuals ("interview summaries"), some of whom will be witnesses at trial. Because the subjects (as opposed to the authors) of the interview summaries have not read, reviewed, or adopted the summaries, the

1 government asks that the defendants be precluded from introducing
2 the content of the interview summaries to impeach subjects of the
3 reports during cross-examination or publishing the contents of the
4 interview summaries to the jury.

5 The government submits the third motion to exclude self-serving
6 hearsay statements offered by defendants. The government intends to
7 present testimony from an HHS-OIG agent about statements made by the
8 defendant Sverdlov. Such evidence is admissible under Federal Rule
9 of Evidence 801(d)(2)(A) as statements of an opposing party.

10 However, defendants may not themselves introduce their own out-of-
11 court statements into evidence because that is hearsay within the
12 scope of Rule 801(c).

13 The government submits the fourth motion to exclude argument
14 for jury nullification. The defendants may not argue that the jury
15 can find a defendant "not guilty," even if the law and facts would
16 dictate a "guilty" verdict.

17 The government submits the fifth motion to exclude evidence
18 related to a pending criminal referral pertaining to a government
19 witness. Evidence of such a criminal referral constitutes improper
20 extrinsic impeachment and character evidence and, as such, is
21 inadmissible under Rules 608 and 609. Further, under Rule 403, any
22 theoretical probative value of any such impeachment is substantially
23 outweighed by danger of misleading the jury.

24 The government submits the sixth motion to exclude the
25 admission of any evidence (including through defense cross-
26 examination of government witnesses) or argument that Medicare's
27 negligence contributed to or caused defendants' fraud. Medicare's
28 purported negligence is irrelevant and inadmissible as a matter of

1 law, and any hypothetical probative value of such evidence is
2 substantially outweighed by the danger of misleading the jury,
3 confusing the issues before the Court, wasting time, and unfair
4 prejudice to the government under Rule 403.

5 **II. BACKGROUND**

6 Defendants Aleksandr Suris ("defendant Suris") and Maxim
7 Sverdlov ("defendant Sverdlov") are charged in the FSI filed on June
8 5, 2018, with one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud in
9 violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349 (Count 1) against both defendants;
10 four counts of health care fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1347
11 against both defendants (Counts 2-5); one count of conspiracy to
12 commit health care fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349 against
13 defendant Suris (Count 6); six counts of health care fraud in
14 violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1347 against defendant Suris (Counts 7-12);
15 and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering in violation
16 of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h) against both defendants (Count 13). Dkt. 52.

17 The FSI alleges that the defendants variously defrauded
18 Medicare (Suris and Sverdlov) and CIGNA (Suris only) by submitting
19 false and fraudulent claims to these health care benefit programs on
20 behalf of Royal Care Pharmacy ("Royal Care") which purported that
21 certain patient prescriptions had been filled, and that the
22 prescribed medications were medically necessary and provided to the
23 patients. However, in truth and fact, Suris and Sverdlov were aware
24 that these prescriptions were never filled or provided to Medicare
25 and CIGNA patients, and that on certain occasions the prescribed
26 medications were not medically necessary. The FSI further alleges
27 that in order to facilitate this fraudulent scheme to bill Medicare
28 and CIGNA for medications that were billed by Royal Care Pharmacy

1 but never filled or provided to patients, as well as to derive cash
2 from this fraud, defendants purchased fictitious invoices from a
3 drug wholesale company, TriMed Medical Wholesalers, Inc. ("TriMed").
4 TriMed's fictitious invoices to Royal Care Pharmacy indicated that
5 Royal Care Pharmacy had purchased certain amounts of prescription
6 drugs from TriMed. However, this never actually occurred, and
7 TriMed never actually provided any of the drugs listed on the
8 fictitious invoices that Suris and Sverdlov paid for on behalf of
9 Royal Care Pharmacy.

10 **III. MEET AND CONFER**

11 The government conferred with counsel for both defendants
12 regarding this Motion.

13 **IV. ARGUMENT**

14 **A. GOVERNMENT'S MOTION IN LIMINE TO EXCLUDE EVIDENCE OF** 15 **LEGITIMATE SERVICES PROVIDED BY DEFENDANTS OUTSIDE OF THE** 16 **COUNTS IN THE INDICTMENT¹**

17 The conspiracy to commit health care fraud and health care
18 fraud counts in the FSI (Counts 1 through 12) focus on certain
19 fraudulent submissions to Medicare and CIGNA for services that were
20 not needed or were not provided. With this motion, the government
21 seeks to exclude evidence that defendants may have provided
22 legitimate services outside of the charged conduct. Such evidence
23 is irrelevant, and any hypothetical probative value is substantially
24 outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusing the issues,
25 misleading the jury, and wasting time.

26 Evidence regarding legitimate conduct outside of the charged
27 conduct is not relevant or admissible under Federal Rules of

28 ¹ Suris objects to this motion. Sverdlov does not oppose the motion.

1 Evidence 401 and 402. "Evidence is relevant if: (a) it has any
2 tendency to make a fact more or less probable than it would be
3 without the evidence; and (b) the fact is of consequence in
4 determining the action." Fed. R. Evid. 401; see also United States
5 v. Dorsey, 677 F.3d 944, 951 (9th Cir. 2012) (citing Fed. R. Evid.
6 402) (noting that "relevant evidence is generally admissible"). "A
7 defendant cannot establish his innocence of crime by showing that he
8 did not commit similar crimes on other occasions." Herzog v. United
9 States, 226 F.2d 561, 565 (9th Cir. 1955), adhered to on reh'g, 235
10 F.2d 664 (9th Cir. 1956); see also United States v. Whitfield, 590
11 F.3d 325, 361 (5th Cir. 2009) ("[E]vidence of noncriminal conduct to
12 negate the inference of criminal conduct is generally irrelevant.")
13 (internal quotation omitted)).

14 In this case, evidence that legitimate services may have been
15 provided on other occasions than those charged would not tend to
16 make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the
17 determination of the action "more or less probable than it would be
18 without the evidence" and is therefore not relevant. Fed. R. Evid.
19 401. First, this evidence would not relate in any way to any of the
20 counts in the indictment. Second, this evidence would not tend to
21 disprove the defendants' participation in the charged scheme to
22 defraud Medicare and CIGNA. Indeed, defendants could have provided
23 legitimate services on some occasions, while also defrauding
24 Medicare and CIGNA on the occasions charged in the FSI. In effect,
25 the defendants would be trying to prove their innocence of the
26 charged crimes by claiming that they are innocent in matters of
27 which they are not charged. This is an improper tactic which should
28 not be permitted.

1 Even if purportedly legitimate services had some marginal
2 relevance, they would still be inadmissible under Federal Rule of
3 Evidence 403, as the danger of misleading the jury, confusing the
4 issues, and wasting time substantially outweighs any theoretical
5 probative value of this evidence. See United States v. Arambula
6 Ruiz, 987 F.2d 599, 604 (9th Cir. 1993) ("The determination must be
7 made whether the danger of undue prejudice outweighs the probative
8 value of the evidence . . . under Rule 403.") (quoting Fed. R. Evid.
9 403 Advisory Committee's Note) (internal quotation marks omitted).

10 The factual issues before the Court should be limited to the
11 charged conduct in the FSI. Any evidence that the defendants may
12 have provided legitimate services at times other than those charged
13 in the FSI is irrelevant, and any hypothetical probative value of
14 such evidence is substantially outweighed by the considerations of
15 Rule 403. Therefore, the defendants should be precluded from
16 presenting evidence of purportedly legitimate services.

17 **B. GOVERNMENT'S MOTION IN LIMINE REGARDING THE PROPER USE OF**
18 **LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVIEW REPORTS²**

19 As produced in discovery, various federal and state law
20 enforcement agents wrote reports summarizing their interviews of
21 certain witnesses, which the witnesses did not read, review, or
22 adopt. The government has provided these interview summaries to the
23 defense, but these interview summaries are not statements of the
24 person interviewed under the Jencks Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3500.
25 Therefore, the government asks that the Court preclude defense
26 counsel from introducing the content of the interview summaries to
27 impeach the subject witnesses during cross-examination, publishing

28 ² Suris and Sverdlov do not oppose this motion.

1 the contents of the interview summaries to the jury, or otherwise
2 suggesting to the jury that the interview summaries are statements
3 of witnesses who did not write them or adopt them.

4 In order to provide for full and fair cross-examination, the
5 Jencks Act requires that after a witness for the United States
6 testifies on direct examination, the government must provide the
7 defense with any statements made by the witness that relate to the
8 subject of his or her testimony. 18 U.S.C. § 3500. A statement
9 within the meaning of the Jencks Act is defined as "a written
10 statement made by said witness and signed or otherwise adopted and
11 approved by him;" a recording or transcription that "is a
12 substantially verbatim recital of an oral statement made by said
13 witness and recorded contemporaneously;" or a statement made by a
14 witness to the grand jury. Id. § 3500(e).

15 In Palermo v. United States, the Supreme Court held that
16 because the Jencks Act is meant to restrict the defendant's use of
17 discoverable statements to impeachment, 360 U.S. 343, 349 (1959),
18 "only those statements which could properly be called the witness'
19 own words should be made available to the defense." Id. at 352.
20 The Court went on to elaborate that "summaries of an oral statement
21 which evidence substantial selection of material" or "statements
22 which contain [an] agent's interpretations or impressions" are "not
23 to be produced." Id. at 352-53.

24 Consistent with Palermo, interview summaries are not
25 discoverable under the Jencks Act because they are not statements of
26 the witness within the meaning of the statute. Unless a witness has
27 reviewed and adopted an interview summary - which was not the
28 practice in this case - the interview summary is not a statement of

1 the witness under subsection (e)(1) of the Jencks Act. Moreover,
2 because the interview summaries were written after the interviews
3 were completed and reflect the thought process and interpretations
4 of the agent, they do not constitute a contemporary and
5 substantially verbatim recital of the witness's statement under
6 subsection (e)(2).

7 The Ninth Circuit has held that interview summaries written by
8 an agent are not Jencks Act material as to the interviewed witness
9 to the extent that the witness has not adopted or approved the
10 summaries. See United States v. Claiborne, 765 F.2d 784, 801 (9th
11 Cir. 1985) ("[B]ecause the summaries represent . . . the agents'
12 selection of certain information . . . the district court properly
13 characterized the summaries as non-Jencks Act material."), abrogated
14 on other grounds by Ross v. Oklahoma, 487 U.S. 81 (1988); United
15 States v. Reed, 575 F.3d 900, 921 (9th Cir. 2009) (finding no Jencks
16 Act violation when a government agent "had taken handwritten notes
17 of interviews, converted them into a typed report, and then
18 destroyed the original notes" because there was no evidence that the
19 notes were "adopted or approved by any of the witnesses").

20 Other circuits have decided the question similarly. See, e.g.,
21 United States v. Price, 542 F.3d 617, 621 (8th Cir. 2008) (holding
22 that absent evidence that the witnesses "approved or adopted" the
23 interview summaries, "these documents are not discoverable under
24 . . . the Jencks Act"); United States v. Jordan, 316 F.3d 1215, 1255
25 (11th Cir. 2003) (holding that interview summaries "are not Jencks
26 Act statements of the witness unless they are substantially verbatim
27 and were contemporaneously recorded, or were signed or otherwise
28 ratified by the witness"); United States v. Donato, 99 F.3d 426, 433

(D.C. Cir. 1996) ("[T]he agent's notes and 302 report . . . are not covered by the Jencks Act."); United States v. Roseboro, 87 F.3d 642, 646 (4th Cir. 1996) ("[T]he district court's finding that the FBI 302 Report was not a Jencks Act statement is not clearly erroneous."); United States v. Farley, 2 F.3d 645, 654-55 (6th Cir. 1993) (holding that because there was "no proof that the statement was adopted or approved . . . it was not clearly erroneous . . . to deny defendants access to the FBI 302"); United States v. Williams, 998 F.2d 258, 269 (5th Cir. 1993) ("We hold that the FBI Forms 302 were not discoverable statements under the Jencks Act."); United States v. Morris, 957 F.2d 1391, 1402 (7th Cir. 1992) ("[T]he documents are not statements producible under the Jencks Act because they were neither signed nor adopted . . . and further because they were not a verbatim recital . . . but rather only an agent's summary"); United States v. Foley, 871 F.2d 235, 239 (1st Cir. 1989) ("It is plain that the 302s are not substantially verbatim recitals . . . and recorded contemporaneously").

As the Supreme Court articulated in Palermo, "[i]t would be grossly unfair to allow the defense to use statements to impeach a witness which could not fairly be said to be the witness' own rather than the product of the investigator's selections, interpretations, and interpolations." 360 U.S. at 350. Accordingly, the government requests that the Court preclude defendants from using the interview summaries inconsistently with the law and rules of evidence. Particularly, the contents of interview summaries should not be used to impeach witnesses on the basis of prior inconsistent statements, because the statements are not the statements of the witnesses themselves. Nor should the defense be allowed to publish or

1 introduce the contents of the summaries as a prior inconsistent
2 statement. See United States v. Brika, 416 F.3d 514, 529 (6th Cir.
3 2005) (holding that interview summaries "have been deemed
4 inadmissible for impeaching witnesses on cross-examination"),
5 abrogated on other grounds by United States v. Booker, 543 U.S. 222
6 (2005); United States v. Leonardi, 623 F.2d 746, 757 (2d Cir.
7 1980) (holding that because "the written statement of the FBI agent
8 was not attributable to [the witness]" it was "properly rejected as
9 a prior inconsistent statement"); United States v. Hill, 526 F.2d
10 1019, 1026 (10th Cir. 1975) (upholding the trial court's decision to
11 "not allow counsel to use the 302 statement to impeach a witness
12 because the witness did not prepare or sign the document and
13 probably never adopted it").

14 For the foregoing reasons, the government respectfully requests
15 that the Court order the defendants cannot use the interview
16 summaries to impeach witnesses on the basis of inconsistent
17 statements, not to publish or introduce the contents of the
18 summaries as prior inconsistent statements, or otherwise suggest to
19 the jury that the interview summaries are statements of witnesses
20 who did not write them or adopt them.

21 **C. GOVERNMENT'S MOTION IN LIMINE TO EXCLUDE HEARSAY**
22 **STATEMENTS OFFERED BY DEFENDANTS³**

23 Under Federal Rule of Evidence 801(d)(2), the government may
24 offer defendants' out-of-court statements as non-hearsay statements
25 of an opposing party. However, the defendants cannot seek to
26 introduce their own out-of-court statements for their truth as those

27 ³ Suris does not oppose this motion. The government was unable to
28 reach Sverdlov for his position.

1 would be inadmissible hearsay.

2 A "statement offered against an opposing party," which "was
3 made by the party in an individual or representative capacity," is
4 not hearsay. Fed. R. Evid. 801(d)(2)(A). Defendants' false
5 exculpatory statements, when offered by the government, are also
6 admissible to prove consciousness of guilt rather than the truth of
7 the statement. See United States v. McCall, 592 F.2d 1066, 1068
8 (9th Cir. 1979) (per curiam) (in prosecution for possession of
9 counterfeit money with intent to defraud, defendant's inconsistent
10 exculpatory statements concerning source of counterfeit bills could
11 be regarded as evidence of consciousness of wrongdoing), cert.
12 denied, 441 U.S. 936 (1979); United States v. Pistante, 453 F.2d
13 412, 413 (9th Cir. 1971) ("False exculpatory statements by a party
14 may be used not only to impeach, but also to prove consciousness of
15 guilt and unlawful intent."); Fox v. United States, 381 F.2d 125,
16 129 (9th Cir. 1967) (defendant's lies regarding ownership of truck
17 provided significant additional evidence of his guilt).

18 On the other hand, the defendants' self-serving exculpatory
19 statements are not admissible when offered by defendants. See Fed.
20 R. Evid. 801(c), 802; United States v. Ortega, 203 F.3d 675, 682
21 (9th Cir. 2000) ("The self-inculpatory statements, when offered by
22 the government, are admissions by a party-opponent and are therefore
23 not hearsay, but the non-self-inculpatory statements are
24 inadmissible hearsay.") citing Williamson v. United States, 512 U.S.
25 594, 599 (1994). Allowing a defendant to elicit his or her own
26 exculpatory hearsay statements through witness testimony or cross-
27 examination would allow the defendant to "place his exculpatory
28 statements 'before the jury without subjecting [himself] to cross-

1 examination, precisely what the hearsay rule forbids.'" Ortega, 203
 2 F.3d at 682, quoting United States v. Fernandez, 839 F.2d 639, 640
 3 (9th Cir. 1988).

4 Defendants may not introduce their own exculpatory hearsay
 5 statements even when the defendant made the exculpatory statements
 6 alongside inculpatory ones. See Williamson, 512 U.S. at 599 ("We
 7 see no reason why collateral statements, even ones that are neutral
 8 as to interest, should be treated any differently from other hearsay
 9 statements that are generally excluded.") (citation omitted); United
 10 States v. Mitchell, 502 F.3d 931, 964 (9th Cir. 2007) (defendant's
 11 exculpatory statements not admissible at trial even though they were
 12 made in "a more broadly self-inculpatory confession").

13 For these reasons, the government respectfully requests that
 14 the Court exclude as hearsay the defendants' own statements when
 15 offered by the defendants.

16 **D. GOVERNMENT'S MOTION IN LIMINE TO EXCLUDE ARGUMENT**
 17 **CONCERNING JURY NULLIFICATION⁴**

18 Defendants should be barred from making any argument for, or
 19 otherwise attempting to seek, jury nullification. In United States
 20 v. Thomas, the Second Circuit held that a "jury has no more 'right'
 21 to find a 'guilty' defendant 'not guilty' than it has to find a 'not
 22 guilty' defendant 'guilty' Such verdicts are lawless, a
 23 denial of due process and constitute an exercise of erroneously
 24 seized power." 116 F.3d 606, 615 (2d Cir. 1997) (internal
 25 quotations and citations omitted). The Ninth Circuit has also
 26 confirmed that defendants are not entitled to jury instructions

27 ⁴ Suris does not oppose this motion. The government was unable to
 28 reach Sverdlov for his position.

1 concerning jury nullification. See e.g., United States v. Powell,
2 955 F.2d 1206, 1212-13 (9th Cir. 1991) (holding that the defendant
3 has no right to instruct the jury to nullify itself); United States
4 v. Simpson, 460 F.2d 515, 519 (9th Cir. 1972). Accordingly,
5 defendant should be precluded from arguing for or otherwise seeking
6 jury nullification.

7 **E. GOVERNMENT'S MOTION IN LIMINE EXCLUDING EVIDENCE OF**
8 **CRIMINAL REFERRAL⁵**

9 Defendant Suris has informed the government that he may seek to
10 introduce evidence related to a 2018 criminal referral from the
11 United States Bankruptcy Trustee related to government witness
12 Richard Kayseryan's bankruptcy proceedings. Because evidence of a
13 criminal referral from the bankruptcy trustee constitutes improper
14 extrinsic impeachment and character evidence, it should be excluded.

15 Federal Rule of Evidence 608 lays out the proper means by which
16 a party may attack a witness's credibility. A witness's credibility
17 may be attacked by reputation testimony about their character for
18 untruthfulness. Fed. R. Evid. 608(a). However, except for a
19 criminal conviction under Rule 609, extrinsic evidence is not
20 admissible to prove specific instances of conduct in order to attack
21 a witness' character for truthfulness. Fed. R. Evid. 608(b).

22 The criminal referral for Kayseryan is not reputation
23 testimony, and so is inadmissible under Rule 608(a), and is not a
24 criminal conviction, and so is not admissible under Rule 609.
25 Accordingly, evidence of the criminal referral would constitute
26 extrinsic evidence offered in order to attack the witness's

27 ⁵ Suris reserved the right to oppose this motion. Sverdlov does not
28 oppose the motion and asserted that such a criminal referral is not
admissible.

1 character for truthfulness, and so would be inadmissible under Rule
2 608(b).

3 Finally, under Fed. R. Evid. 403, any theoretical probative
4 value of any such impeachment is substantially outweighed by danger
5 of misleading the jury. The inferences created through the
6 defendants' cross-examination regarding the criminal referral could
7 only fairly be rebutted by allowing the government to introduce
8 evidence of the pending nature or declination of that matter as
9 substantive evidence. Such a circumstance would result in a "mini-
10 trial" on a secondary, subordinate issue that is irrelevant to the
11 conduct charged in the FSI and would unduly delay the trial and
12 likely confuse the jury.

13 **F. GOVERNMENT'S MOTION IN LIMINE TO EXCLUDE ARGUMENT AND**
14 **EVIDENCE THAT MEDICARE OR CIGNA WERE NEGLIGENT⁶**

15 The government seeks to preclude the admission of any evidence
16 (including through defense cross-examination of government
17 witnesses) or argument that Medicare's or CIGNA's negligence
18 contributed to or caused defendants' fraud.

19 Because Medicare's or CIGNA's purported negligence is
20 irrelevant to the criminal charges at issues in this case, any
21 evidence or argument concerning purported negligence should be
22 excluded. Such evidence should also be excluded because any
23 hypothetical probative value is substantially outweighed by the
24 danger of unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, misleading the
25 jury, and wasting time.

26 In a federal criminal fraud case, negligence on the part of a
27 victim, even if proven, constitutes no defense to the charges. The

28 ⁶ Defendants do not oppose this motion.

1 instant motion in limine seeks to preclude defendants from "blaming"
2 Medicare or CIGNA in the face of defendants' own deliberate
3 misconduct. Defendants may seek to divert the jury's attention -
4 and waste the Court's valuable time - by pointing their fingers at
5 the victims, Medicare and CIGNA, which paid their fraudulent claims.
6 However, whether Medicare or CIGNA should have taken additional
7 steps or required more information in connection with these claims
8 is entirely irrelevant to the criminal charges in this case. The
9 focus of this criminal trial should be on defendants' misconduct,
10 not on whether their victims should (or even could) have done more
11 to avoid defendants' fraud.

12 The negligence of the victim in failing to discover a
13 fraudulent scheme is not a defense to criminal conduct. United
14 States v. Lindsey, 850 F.3d 1009, 1015 (9th Cir. 2017). In Lindsay,
15 the Ninth Circuit joined its "sister circuits in holding that a
16 victim's negligence is not a defense to wire fraud. Evidence of
17 lender negligence is thus not admissible as a defense to mortgage
18 fraud." Id. Lenders cannot "be victimized by intentional
19 fraudulent conduct with impunity merely because the lenders were
20 negligent" Id. at 1014. The Ninth Circuit's decision
21 followed similar holdings by several other courts of appeals. See,
22 e.g., United States v. Coyle, 63 F.3d 1239, 1244 (3rd Cir. 1995) (in
23 mail fraud case, rejecting relevance of defendant's allegations that
24 victim was negligent, even if true); United States v. Davis, 226
25 F.3d 346, 358-59 (5th Cir. 2000) (affirming jury instruction that
26 "the naivety, carelessness, negligence, or stupidity of a victim
27 does not excuse criminal conduct, if any, on the part of a defendant
28 Even the monumental credulity of a victim does not excuse a

1 defendant's fraud, if any"); United States v. Thomas, 377 F.3d 232,
2 243-44 (2nd Cir. 2004) (affirming restrictions on cross-examination
3 of victim; rejecting defendant's argument that victim's foolishness
4 vitiated defendant's fraudulent intent).

5 The Ninth Circuit's decision in Lindsay also comports with
6 precedent that the government need not prove that the scheme was
7 calculated to deceive persons of ordinary prudence and
8 comprehension. United States v. Ciccone, 219 F.3d 1078, 1083 (9th
9 Cir. 2000) ("[T]he wire-fraud statute protects the naive as well as
10 the worldly-wise. . . . [T]he lack of guile on the part of those
11 solicited may itself point with persuasion to the fraudulent
12 character of the artifice.") (quotations omitted).

13 Here, the evidence will not support any claim of victim
14 negligence made by defendants, and any such evidence is irrelevant
15 to the charges at issue. But given that such negligence, even if
16 proven, is no defense as a matter of law, defendants should not be
17 permitted present argument or evidence of possible negligence,
18 including through cross-examination of government witnesses.
19 Moreover, any hypothetical probative value of such evidence would be
20 substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice to the
21 government, misleading the jury, confusing the issues before the
22 jury, and wasting time and should be excluded under Rule 403.

23 **V. CONCLUSION**

24 For the foregoing reasons, the government respectfully requests
25 that the Court grant the relief sought in the government's Omnibus
26 Motion in Limine, and order the following: (1) that evidence of
27 legitimate services provided by defendants be excluded; (2) that
28 defendants are precluded from using interview summaries improperly

1 at trial; (3) that defendants may not offer defendants' own self-
2 serving hearsay statements at trial; (4) that defendants are
3 precluded from arguing for jury nullification; (5) that defendants
4 are precluded from introducing evidence related to the criminal
5 referral; and (6) that defendants may not offer evidence or argument
6 that Medicare's or CIGNA's purported negligence contributed to or
7 caused defendants' fraud.

8
9 Respectfully submitted,

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15
16 DATED: July 16, 2019

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